

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for processing a request to purchase a portion of a commodity, the commodity having an associated cost, the cost being divided into multiple payment divisions, the computer-implemented method comprising:

5 receiving a request to purchase at least one payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions;

receiving payment information associated with the purchase of the at least one payment division; and

10 automatically processing the payment information to cause payment to be made for the at least one payment division.

2. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 further including: identifying the at least one payment division as being purchased.

15 3. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 further including generating a notification, the notification being arranged to indicate that the at least one payment division is purchased.

20 4. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 further including: determining when the payment information is successfully processed, wherein when the payment information is determined to be successfully processed, the at least one payment division is identified as being purchased.

25 5. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 wherein the request to purchase the at least one payment division is received across a communications link from a remote computing device.

30 6. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1 wherein the commodity is a vacation, and each payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions is associated with at least one aspect of the vacation.

7. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 6 wherein each payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions is a specific aspect of the vacation, and automatically processing the payment information to cause the payment to be made for the at least one payment division causes the payment to be made for the specific aspect of the vacation.

8. A server suitable for use in a client-server computing environment, the server being arranged to process a request to purchase a portion of a commodity, the commodity having a cost, the cost being divided into multiple payment divisions, the server comprising:

a receiving mechanism, the receiving mechanism being arranged to receive a request to purchase at least one payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions, the receiving mechanism further being arranged to receive payment information associated with the purchase of the at least one payment division; and

a processing mechanism, the processing mechanism being arranged to automatically process the payment information to cause payment to be made for the at least one payment division.

9. The server according to claim 8 wherein the receiving mechanism is still further arranged to communicate with a client across a communications link.

10. The server according to claim 8 wherein the processing mechanism is further arranged to divide the cost of the commodity into the multiple payment divisions.

11. The server according to claim 8 further including:

a determining mechanism, the determining mechanism being arranged to determine when the payment information is successfully processed; and

a generator, the generator being arranged to generate a notification, the notification being arranged to indicate that the at least one payment division is purchased when it is determined that the payment information is successfully processed.

12. The server according to claim 8 wherein the commodity is a vacation, and each payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions is associated with an aspect of the vacation.

13. The server according to claim 8 further including:  
an interface, the interface being arranged to enable communication between the server and a remote computing system, wherein the remote computing system provides the server with information associated with the commodity using the interface.

14. A computer program product for processing a request to purchase a portion of a commodity, the commodity having a cost, the cost being divided into multiple payment divisions, the computer program product comprising:

computer code for receiving a request to purchase at least one payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions;

computer code for receiving payment information associated with the purchase of the at least one payment division;

computer code for automatically processing the payment information to cause payment to be made for the at least one payment division; and

a computer readable medium that stores the computer codes

15. The computer program product according to claim 14 further including:  
computer code for identifying the at least one payment division as being purchased.

16. The computer program product according to claim 14 further including computer code for generating a notification, the notification being arranged to indicate that the at least one payment division is purchased.

17. The computer program product according to claim 14 further including:

computer code for determining when the payment information is successfully processed, wherein when the payment information is determined to be successfully processed, the at least one payment division is identified as being purchased.

18. A computer program product according to claim 14 wherein the commodity is a vacation, and each payment division selected from the multiple payment divisions is associated with aspects of the vacation.

19. A computer program product according to claim 14 wherein the computer-readable medium is one selected from the group consisting of a data signal embodied in a carrier wave, a hard disk, a floppy disk, a tape, an optical disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD, and a computer memory.

20. A computer-implemented method for processing a purchase of a first component of a travel holiday, the first component being selected from a plurality of components, the computer-implemented method comprising:

displaying at least a first representation of the first component of the travel holiday, the first component being available for purchase;

receiving a selection of the first representation of the first component;

displaying at least one payment option, the at least one payment option being suitable for affecting the purchase of the first component;

receiving a payment selection, the payment selection being associated with the at least one payment option, wherein receiving the payment selection includes receiving payment information associated with the payment selection;

automatically processing the payment information; and

identifying the first component as being unavailable for future purchase, wherein identifying the first component as being unavailable for future purchase includes augmenting the first representation to indicate that the first component is unavailable for future purchase.

21. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 20 further including displaying the augmented first representation.

22. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 20 further including  
5 displaying representations of the plurality of components.

23. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 20 further including:  
determining when the payment information is successfully processed; and  
identifying the first component as being unavailable for future purchase only  
10 when it is determined that the payment information is successfully processed.

24. The computer-implemented method as recited in claim 23 further including:  
generating an invoice which includes at least a portion of the payment  
information, wherein the invoice identifies the first component as being purchased;  
15 and displaying the invoice.

25. A computer program product for processing a purchase of a first component of a  
travel holiday, the first component being selected from a plurality of components, the  
computer program product comprising:  
20 computer code for displaying at least a first representation of the first component  
of the travel holiday, the first component being available for purchase;  
computer code for receiving a selection of the first representation of the first  
component;  
computer code for displaying at least one payment option, the at least one  
25 payment option being suitable for affecting the purchase of the first component;  
computer code for receiving a payment selection, the payment selection being  
associated with the at least one payment option, wherein receiving the payment selection  
includes receiving payment information associated with the payment selection;  
computer code for automatically processing the payment information;  
30 computer code for identifying the first component as being unavailable for future  
purchase, wherein identifying the first component as being unavailable for future

purchase includes augmenting the first representation to indicate that the first component is unavailable for future purchase; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

26. A computer-implemented method for automatically maintaining a registry list, the computer-implemented method comprising:

providing information associated with at least a first commodity;

receiving a selection for the first commodity, the first commodity having an associated cost;

dividing the cost into multiple payment divisions; and

creating the registry list, the registry list including an identifier that identifies the first commodity, the registry list further including indicators that identify the multiple payment divisions.

27. The computer-implemented method of claim 26 further including:

displaying the registry list; and

enabling at least one payment division included in the multiple payment divisions to be selected.

28. A computing system comprising:

a client computer; and

a primary server computer, the primary server computer being in communication with the client computer, the primary server computer being arranged to automatically maintain a list that includes an indication of at least one commodity that has an associated cost, the primary server computer being further arranged to divide the associated cost into a plurality of payment increments and to substantially automatically generate the list.

29. The computing system of claim 28 further including:

a secondary server computer, the secondary server computer being in

communication with the primary server computer, wherein the secondary server computer includes information relating to the commodity and enables the client computer to

interact with the primary server computer to initiate a purchase of at least one of the plurality of payment increments, wherein the purchased payment increment is effectively credited with respect to the secondary server computer.

5 30. The computing system of claim 28 wherein the primary server computer is arranged to substantially automatically generate the list using information provided by the client computer.

31. A computing system comprising:

10 means for obtaining information relating to a commodity, the information including a cost of the commodity;

means for processing the obtained information relating to the commodity, wherein the means for processing the obtained information includes means for dividing the cost into a plurality of increments;

15 means for automatically creating a registry list using the obtained information, wherein the registry list include information associated with the plurality of increments;

means for enabling at least one of the increments included in the plurality of increments to be automatically purchased; and

20 means for automatically updating the registry list to indicate that the at least one increment has been purchased.

32. The computing system according to claim 31 wherein the means for enabling the at least one of the increments included in the plurality of increments to be automatically purchased includes:

25 means for allowing payment to be made for the at least one of the increments; and

means for completing the automatic purchase of the at least one increment substantially after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

33. The computing system according to claim 32 wherein the means for completing the automatic purchase includes means for providing a representation of the least one increment to a recipient substantially after the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

34. The computing system according to claim 33 wherein the representation is one of a gift certificate and a voucher.

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